GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
AGREEMENT WITH US UNDER OPEN SKY POLICY
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with United States under the Open Sky Policy;

(b) If so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries under the agreement;

(d) whether India has sought certain modifications to ensure that the benefits do not go to international carriers with which US airlines have a tie-up;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India has also rejected US proposal to conduct a security audit of all the Indian airports;

(g) if so, the details in this regard; and

(h) the number of flights increased after implementation of the said agreement between the two countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f),(g)and (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 52 for reply on 3.03.2005 regarding Agreement with US under Open Sky Policy.

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. As per the revised Air Services Agreement recently initialed with USA, both countries can designate any number of airlines and can operate any number of services from any point in the home country to any point in the territory of other Contracting State with full intermediate and beyond traffic rights. The designated airlines of one country can also code-share with the domestic airlines of the other country.

(c) : India-USA routes is one of the major markets for the Indian carriers. The revised agreement has removed all constraints for operations on India-USA route. Indian carriers will be benefited from the various flexibilities provided in this agreement, particularly from the unlimited intermediate and beyond traffic rights which can now be exercised by them from/to any intermediate/beyond point. Indian carriers can also operate to any point in USA. Under this agreement, benefits are available to both sides on reciprocal basis.

(d) & (e): Under this agreement, there is no limit on the code-share operations by airlines of either countries. However, in order to preclude the possibility of increased opportunities being sought by third country carriers, it has been clearly specified in the agreement that code share operations will not create any additional entitlements for third country carriers with which the Indian or the US carriers may code share to operate to the territory of the other State.

(f) & (g) : On security issue, the provision in the revised agreement are based on globally accepted standards and are consistent with our existing policy. The provisions apply reciprocally to both countries.

(h) : Since this agreement has been initialed very recently i.e. on 15th January, 2005, there has been no increase in the number of flights operated by any airline as yet.